



***Spotlight on Bells Mill Elementary***  
**March 21, 2016**  
**Office of the Principal**  
[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bellsmilles](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/schools/bellsmilles)  
<http://www.twitter.com/bellsmilles>

**This Week**

**Mon., Mar. 21**

**This is Mini Spirit Week**  
**Today is Wacky Clothes Day**  
**Open House for New Kindergarteners/Parents, 9:30 am – noon**  
**Learn Music Now, 8:15 am**  
**Etiquette, 3:50 pm, rm. 125**  
**Glee Club, 3:50 pm, rm. 164**  
**Gr. 1 Daisies, 3:50, rm. 150**

**Tues., Mar. 22**

**Today is Color Day (each grade wears a different color—see below)**  
**Clay Creations, 3:50-4:50 pm, rm. 163**  
**Book Fair at Barnes and Noble, 4:30 pm-closing**

**Wed., Mar. 23**

**Today is College Day (wear your favorite college gear/colors)**  
**French, 8:00 am, rm. 154**  
**Spanish Intro, 8:00 am, rm. 150**  
**Spanish Beginner, 8:00 am, rm. 233 (note room change)**  
**STEM, 3:30 pm, rms. 120 and 124**  
**Chess, 3:50-5:15 pm, Media Center**  
**Lego Robotics, 3:50-5:00 pm, rm. 124 and 120**

**Mar. 24 to Apr. 1 No School**

**A Look Ahead**

**April 4 Welcome Back!**  
**April 11-12 Kindergarten Orientation, No School for Current Kindergarteners**  
**April 5 PTA Meeting, 7:00 pm**  
**April 8 End of 3<sup>rd</sup> Marking Period**

- **I want to take this opportunity to inform pet owners that dogs must be on a leash and under the owner’s control at all times.** Several parents inquired about school policy regarding dogs and reminded us that some children are not comfortable around animals. Therefore, **I am asking for the cooperation of pet owners. If you must bring your dog to school at dismissal, please be considerate and stand away from the front doors so that children can exit the building without encountering your pet.**

**For you information I have included Montgomery County Code, Chapter Sec. 5-203(a)(7) regarding dogs on public school grounds:** An owner must not allow a dog to be on public school grounds on a day when school is in session, or in a public recreation area during an organized activity, unless the dog is controlled by a leash or similar restraining device.

- **This is a 3-day Mini Spirit Week, sponsored by the SGA, with a different theme on each day:**

**Monday is Wacky Clothes Day** so dress in your wackiest clothing combinations.

**Tuesday is Color Day**, and each grade wears an assigned color (K-purple, 1<sup>st</sup>-yellow, 2<sup>nd</sup>-green, 3<sup>rd</sup> orange, 4<sup>th</sup>-red, 5<sup>th</sup>-blue).

**Wednesday is College Day** and students can wear the colors and gear of their favorite college.

- **THE BELLS MILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOOK FAIR AND COMMUNITY NIGHT AT BARNES & NOBLE** – Join us after school on **TUESDAY, MARCH 22<sup>ND</sup>** for fun treats, books, books, books and more! You can shop all day for books and entertainment for Spring Break, and we'll have activities in the upstairs children's section, plus celebrity guest readers and entertainment from 4:30pm – 8:30pm. Barnes and Noble is located on Rockville Pike at Montrose Rd. For more information or to volunteer, please contact Danielle Lindholm at [dcamner@hotmail.com](mailto:dcamner@hotmail.com).
- **There is no school from Thursday, March 24, through Friday, April 1. The staff and I wish you a safe and relaxing spring break. School will resume on Monday, April 4.**
- **Bells Mill students on eight teams competed at the Odyssey of the Mind State Tournament on Saturday, March 12.** Our school remains the largest Odyssey organization in the state! Of our five Division 1 teams (grades 3-5), two received first place trophies and two received second place trophies to add to Bells Mill's growing collection. These four teams are eligible (and some have already decided to go) to compete at the International World Finals in May, representing Bells Mill and Maryland. Another team received the second place award for the Spontaneity Competition, a very competitive problem-solving competition held in February and awarded this weekend. Finally, a team of Bells Mill fifth graders won the coveted Ranatra Fusca Award for exceptional creativity, an honor so rare it has never been awarded at the Maryland State Tournament before! Congratulations go to all 70 participants in this year's program!
- **There will be no school for kindergarteners on Monday and Tuesday, April 11 and 12.** On these days we will hold Kindergarten Orientation for next year's kindergarteners.

**If you have neighbors with children who will be 5 years old by September 1, 2016, please urge them to contact the office in order to make an appointment for Kindergarten Orientation.**

- **All students brought home a blue form that requests your school plans for next year. It is important for staffing that we know how many students will return to Bells Mill. If you have not already done so, please complete the form and return it to your child's teacher.**
- **At this time of year maintenance personnel** begin the process of converting schools from heating to air conditioning. There will be no heat in our building after mid-April. Please keep the weather forecast in mind when dressing your child for school.
- **Children ages 8-14 register now for Spring Break Technology Camp at Montgomery College, March 29-April 4, Germantown Campus, morning and afternoon programs are available. For registration/information, visit [www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth](http://www.montgomerycollege.edu/youth) or call 240-567-7917.**
- **Registration is ongoing for prekindergarten and Head Start programs for the 2016–2017 school year.** The programs serve income-eligible families with children who will be 4 years old by September 1, 2016, including children with disabilities. Walk-in applications will be accepted Monday through Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m., at Rocking Horse Road Center, 4910 Macon Road in Rockville. Additional information about

eligibility, registration, and required documents to complete an application is available on the MCPS website at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org), search “preK”, or by calling 301-230-0676.

- **Don’t miss out! The “Slamtastic” Harlem Wizards vs. Churchill Cluster teachers basketball game is Sunday, April 17, 2016, 4:00 pm, in the Churchill HS gym.** See our own Mr. Romans and Mr. Leffler play in the game. Tickets are limited. Purchase tickets online at [www.harlemwizards.com/schedule-tickets](http://www.harlemwizards.com/schedule-tickets) (students \$13, adults \$17 online, or \$20 at the door). Questions, email [wchsedfoundation@gmail.com](mailto:wchsedfoundation@gmail.com) . For more information [www.wchsfoundation.org/events](http://www.wchsfoundation.org/events) .
- **The class photos are now available for online ordering.** Use the following link and password:  
[www.freedpics.com](http://www.freedpics.com)  
password: BEARS15F  
\*click on the first gallery, "Class Photos"
- **Montgomery County Executive Isiah Leggett has released his recommended operating budget for FY 2017 and is proposing a \$135.9 million increase in spending for MCPS.** This is about \$44 million less than the \$2.5 billion operating budget the Board of Education had requested. The Montgomery County Council will hold public hearings on the County Executive’s budget recommendation on April 5, 6, and 7. This is an opportunity for parents, staff, students, and community members to share their thoughts with county leaders about why it is important to fully fund the MCPS budget. To sign up to testify at a hearing, visit [www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/PHSignup.html](http://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/COUNCIL/PHSignup.html) or call 240- 777-7803. Stay informed and engaged on the budget request on the MCPS operating budget website:  
[www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/budget/)
- **MCPS has released its comprehensive study of choice and other special academic programs.** The study was commissioned by the Board of Education to analyze how well choice and special academic programs advance the district’s mission, core purpose, and core values, and to recommend ways MCPS can improve these programs. Over the next several months, MCPS will engage with the community and work to develop a plan to address the report’s findings and recommendations. Three community dialogues are scheduled to discuss the recommendations and the vision for choice within MCPS. The meetings will take place from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on April 6 at Gaithersburg HS; April 18 at Kennedy HS; and May 5 at Walter Johnson HS. Read the report and provide feedback at [www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/choice/report.aspx](http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/choice/report.aspx) .
- **Are You Up to the 5th Grade Challenge?** The MCPS Educational Foundation invites you to join local dignitaries and community leaders for a night of fun and celebration at the fourth annual “Are You Up to the 5th Grade Challenge?” event on **Monday, April 11**. The event will be held at 7 p.m. at the AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center, 8633 Colesville Road in Silver Spring. The event will test local celebrity contestants on their knowledge of Grade 5 facts. Students from more than 20 MCPS elementary schools will participate in the event. The event is free and open to the public. Those who wish to attend are asked to register [online at: www.mcpsfoundation.org/fifth-grade-challenge-2016](http://www.mcpsfoundation.org/fifth-grade-challenge-2016).

*Thank you for being partners in your child’s education.*